

Israel Says It Will Act In Crisis if Necessary

Will Wait Short Time, Eban Says

By United Press International

Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban today said his nation will act alone to break the Arab blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba unless international efforts to settle the key issue in the Middle East crisis are successful soon.

At a Jerusalem news conference, Eban did not specify just how long his country will wait but said, "I mean a short time. I do not want to say whether that means a few days or weeks but it certainly does not mean months or years."

"We will act alone if we must, but with others if we can," Eban said.

Amid Israel's warnings, King Hussein of Jordan suddenly appeared in Cairo, where he has been denounced bitterly as a pro-American "CIA agent."

UAR-Jordan Pact Signed

UAR President Gamal Abdel Nasser welcomed him at the airport with open arms and the two leaders signed a treaty committing both nations to regard an attack on one as an attack on both.

The treaty aligned Jordan's 40,000-man army with the UAR's 300,000-man force. The Israelis make no bones about their respect for the Jordanian army.

Well-informed sources in Paris said three Israeli jet-airliners made a hush-hush stop at a French air force base last night and picked up French-produced war material.

They said the Boeing jets of Israel's El Al Airline landed at the base last night at the base near Bordeaux and immediately were shunted into hangars. The sources said the planes were believed to have been loaded



—Associated Press

Former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion listens as Prime Minister Levi Eshkol explains Gulf of Aqaba status in Parliament.

with gear from the Aeronautique Marcel-Dassault company at Merignac near Bordeaux, a major supplier to Israel's air force. Two of the three jets left in the middle of the night. The third left early today, the sources said.

Well-informed sources in Paris said the jets' mission confirmed French determination to continue delivering spare parts and material to Israel which is chiefly armed with French military hardware.

Vital to Israel's Interests

Eban said Israel's vital interests are affected by the U.A.R. blockade of the gulf and the U.A.R. military buildup in the Sinai Desert facing Israel.

Israel's only Red Sea outlet port, Elath, is located in the gulf and is the object of the blockade. "There is no doubt that our readiness to protect the freedom of passage is shared by the great maritime powers," Eban said.

In Washington, President Johnson's administration was understood to feel that in the final analysis the Kremlin may restrain Nasser from forcing a showdown that could send the Middle East to war.

But Arab and Israeli armies remained poised for action on their frontiers.

And there appeared no concrete lessening by the crisis that in 12 days has tended to overshadow even the Vietnam war.